

NWS GRAND JUNCTION COLORADO



A LOOK
BACK AT

May 2021
WEATHER ACROSS E UTAH / W COLORADO

May started out unseasonably warm and dry as near-record high temperatures and critical fire weather conditions occurred the first couple days of the month. A cold front moved through the region on May 3rd and brought moderate snow to the N and portions of the W-Central CO mountains. The next couple of weeks were generally dry and breezy before another system arrived on May 21st. A deep area of low pressure remained nearly stationary over the Great Basin and pumped subtropical moisture into the region. The SW San Juan Mountains received an average of 5 to 10 inches of wet, heavy snow with this event. The month ended on an active note as a midlevel trough lifted across the region on May 31st. Scattered to numerous showers and thunderstorms produced heavy rain, frequent lightning, and hail up to a quarter inch in diameter, mostly across SW CO.

May was on average drier than normal across the region as 9 out of the 10 automated stations found at airports across E UT and W CO ended the month with below normal precipitation. May was generally warmer than normal across the region with mean temperatures ranging from 1 to 3 degrees above normal.



May 2021

CLIMATE SUMMARY



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NOTE: all data mentioned is collected from our automated observing stations from 10 airports across the area. Some observers in more remote areas may have measured warmer or colder temperatures, or more or less precipitation than mentioned in this summary.

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STORY OF THE MONTH

21 MAY HEAVY SNOW

A deep area of low pressure remained nearly stationary over the Great Basin. Subtropical moisture advected into the region and produced wet, heavy snow over the southwest San Juan Mountains. Generally 5 to 10 inches of wet, heavy snow fell across the area with locally higher amounts near a foot estimated at the Bear Town SNOTEL site. Both Red Mountain and Molas Passes were closed along Colorado Highway 550 as a result of the hazardous travel conditions.

*Red Mountain
Pass on 21
May (Credit:
San Juan
County EM)*



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TEMPERATURES



Location	Average Temp (°F) (VS Normal)	Warmest Temp (°F)	Coldest Temp (°F)
Aspen, CO	50.0 (Normal)	75 on 5/1, 29	26 on 5/12, 24
Cortez, CO	57.0 (+1.1)	85 on 5/28-30	27 on 5/6
Craig, CO	52.0 (+0.2)	83 on 5/1, 28	25 on 5/6
Durango, CO	54.4 (+1.6)	81 on 5/14, 29-30	26 on 5/6, 12
Grand Junction, CO	63.5 (+1.5)	88 on 5/14, 28	35 on 5/9
Meeker, CO	52.3 (-0.3)	80 on 5/1, 29	25 on 5/9
Montrose, CO	59.1 (+0.5)	84 on 5/1, 28-29	33 on 5/11-12
Rifle, CO	58.8 (+1.5)	86 on 5/28	33 on 5/24
Canyonlands Airport, UT	65.0 (+2.1)	89 on 5/14, 28-29	37 on 5/11
Vernal, UT	59.3 (+1.8)	85 on 5/7, 28	33 on 5/4

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PRECIPITATION



Location	Total Precipitation (in.)	Departure from Normal (in.)
Aspen, CO	1.54	+0.02
Cortez, CO	0.22	-0.52
Craig, CO	0.82	-0.81
Durango, CO	1.38	-0.64
Grand Junction, CO	0.53	-0.30
Meeker, CO	1.26	-0.48
Montrose, CO	0.38	-0.44
Rifle, CO	0.72	-0.42
Canyonlands Airport, UT	0.09	-0.51
Vernal, UT	0.30	-0.66

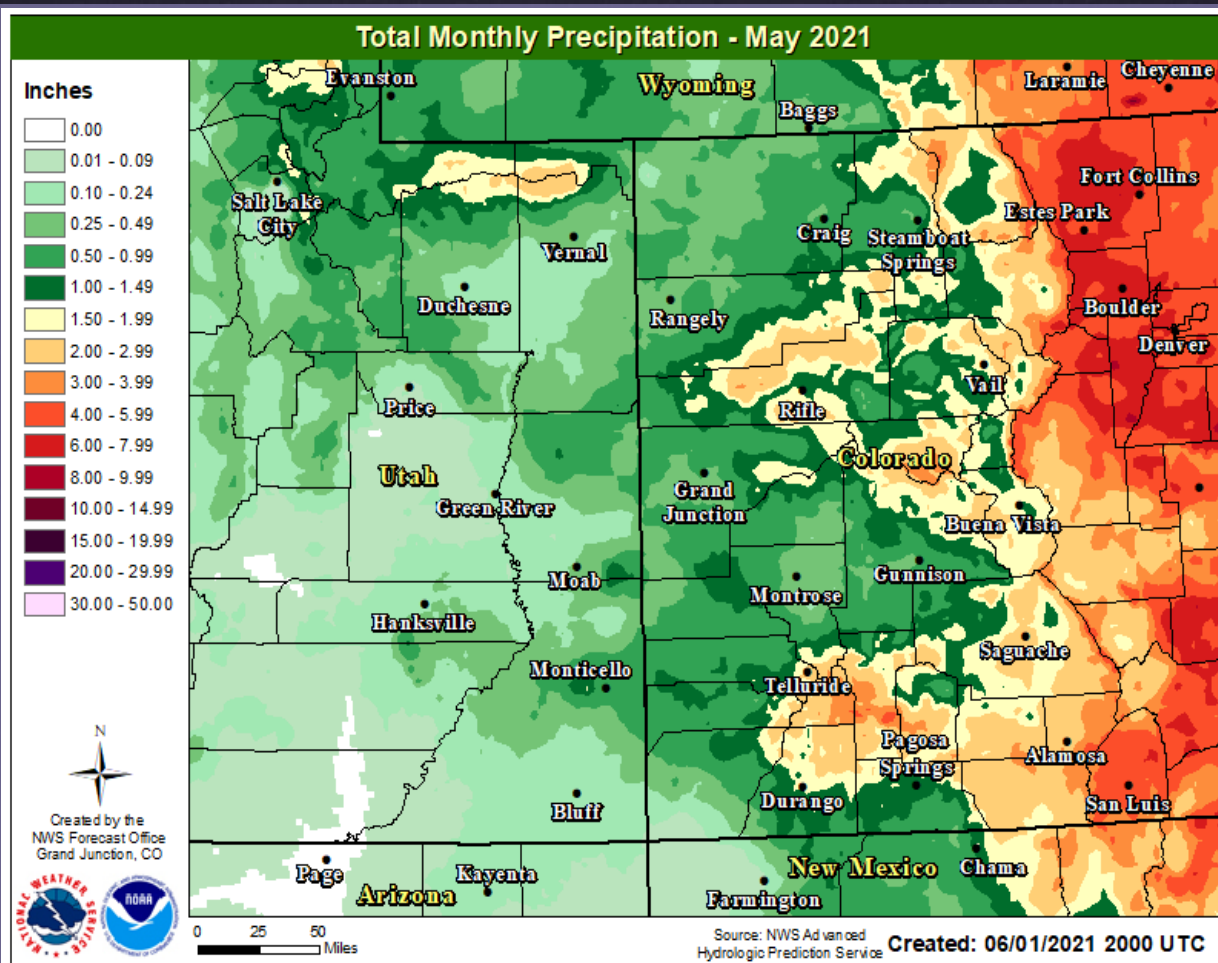


May 2021

CLIMATE SUMMARY



TOTAL MONTHLY PRECIPITATION



May 2021

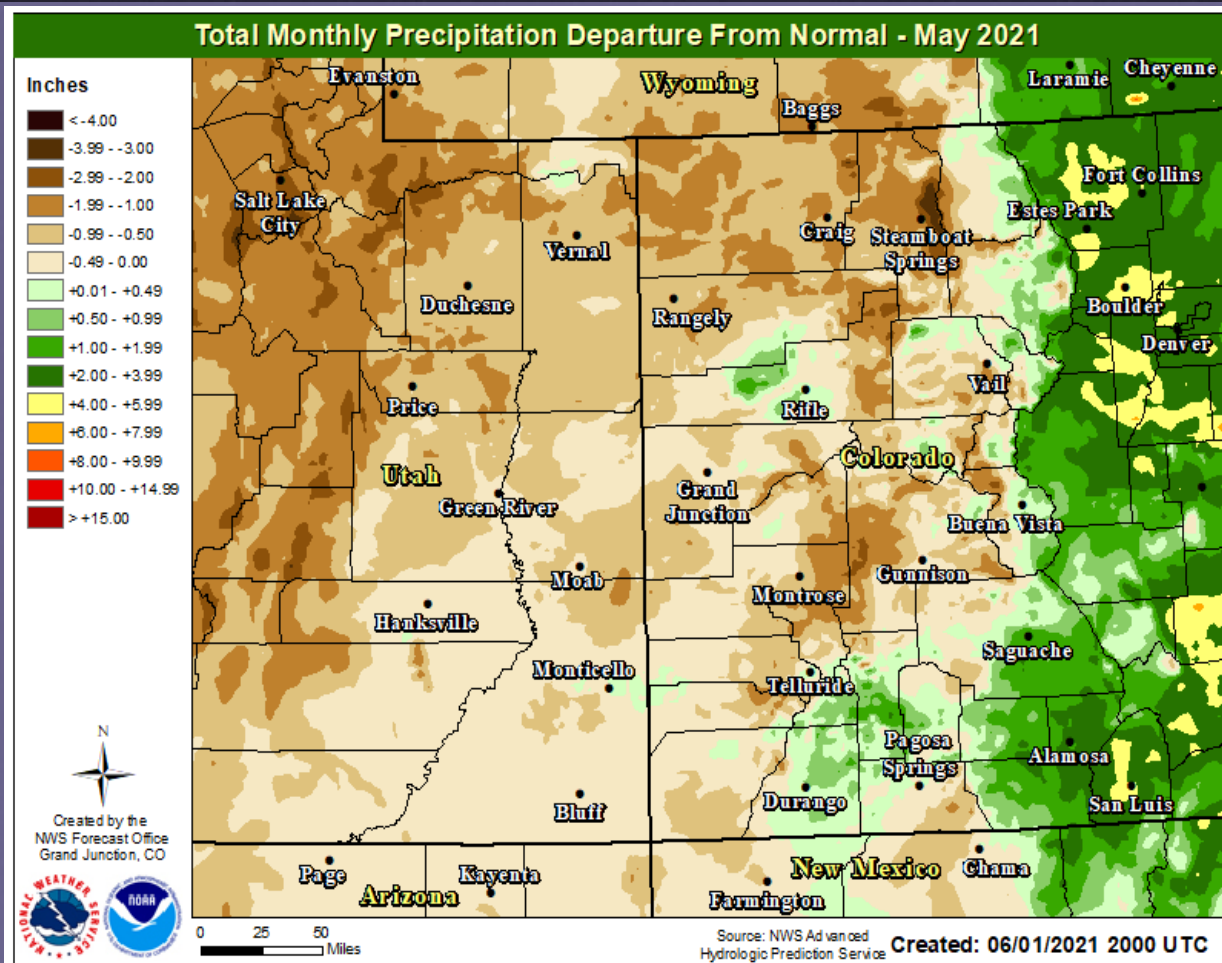
CLIMATE SUMMARY



TOTAL
MONTHLY

PRECIPITATION

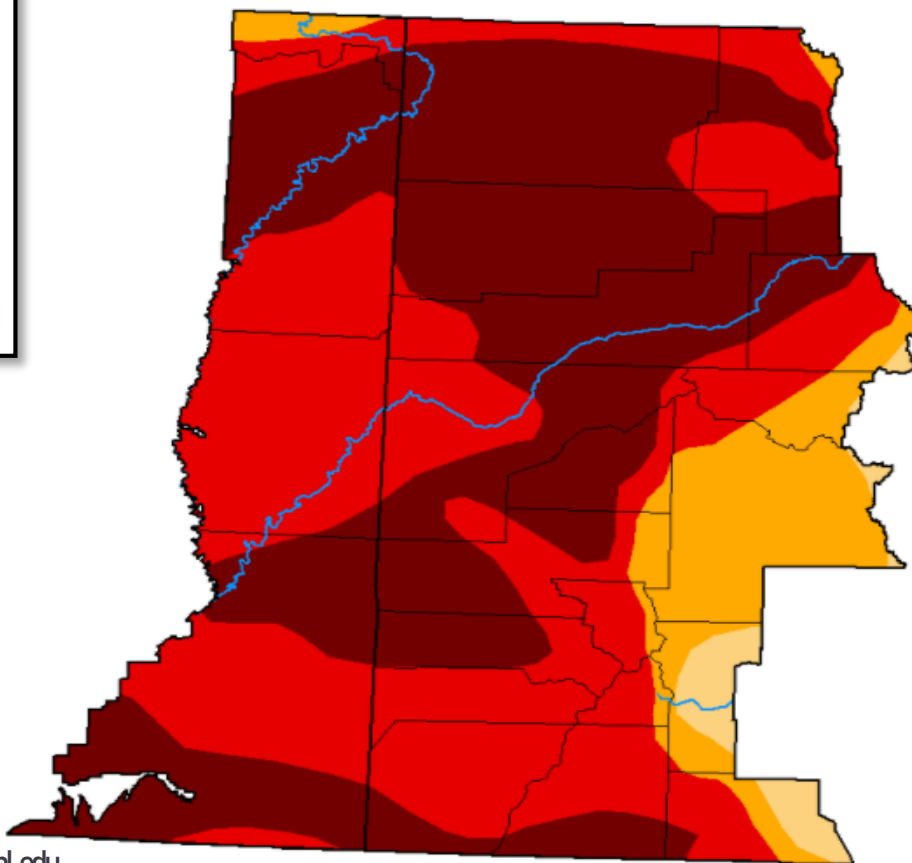
DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL





Extreme (D3) to exceptional (D4) drought conditions persisted across the majority of eastern Utah and western Colorado throughout May. An exception was across portions of the Divide where the severe (D2) drought prevailed. There was some improvement to the moderate (D1) drought in Hinsdale and Archuleta counties.

Intensity:



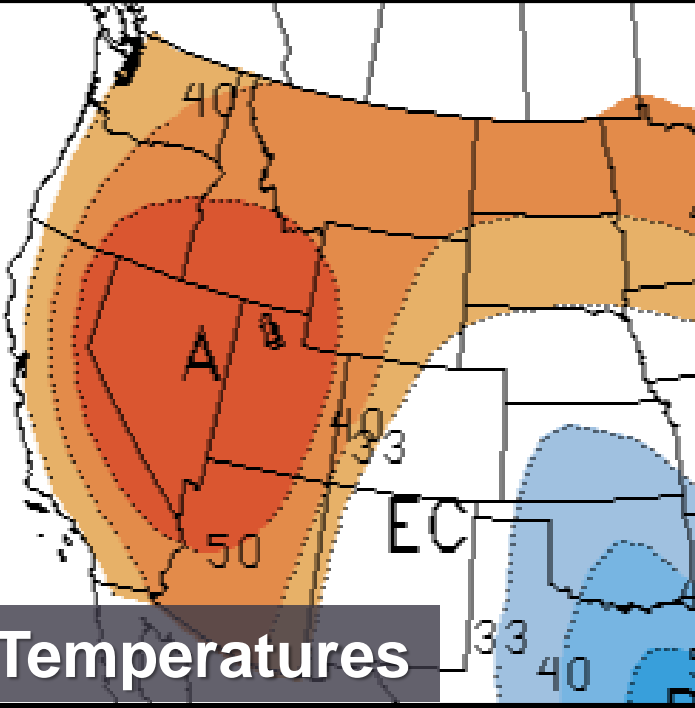
Source:

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>

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OUTLOOK

TEMPERATURES & PRECIPITATION



For June, the latest outlook from the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) shows odds favoring warmer than normal temperatures across eastern Utah and far western Colorado. As far as precipitation goes, drier than normal conditions are favored for northeast Utah and northwest Colorado.

